



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
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Number of Farms and Land in Farms

The number of farms and ranches in **Colorado** in 2010 totaled 36,100, down 100 operations from 2009 according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Total land in farms in Colorado, at 31.2 million acres, was down slightly from 2009. The average size of farm was 864 acres.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2010 is estimated at 2.2 million, virtually unchanged from 2009. Total land in farms, at 920.0 million acres, increased 100 thousand acres from 2009. The average farm size is 418 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

USDA'S definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 Census.